(d) the steps being taken by Government for release of only approved salt for use of public in the market and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) the Government has been advertising the use of only iodated salt for direct human consumption to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country and not any brand of iodated salt.

(b) The Union Government have laid down standards of Iodated salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and rules 1955.

(c) The manufacture of Iodated salt is liberalized to the Private Sector also. Therefore some of the companies may sometimes overemphasize the quality of their product through TV advertisements.

(d) In order to ensure consumption of approved quality of Iodated salt by the public, the same is being monitored by the salt Commissioner at manufacturing level and State/U.Ts. Health Directorates as consumption level both under IDD monitoring laboratory and Public Health Laboratories under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Bonus on wheat

†2927. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give bonus to the producers on the procurement of wheat in the current year;

(b) if so, the amount of bonus and when this bonus was announced and the cut off date of its implementation; and

(c) whether it is a fact that above mentioned annoucement has been made amid commencement of the procurement of new wheat crop, if so, the reasons for not making this announcement in the beginning?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal for procurement of wheat over the MSP of Rs. 650/- per quintal has been announced by the Government on 22.4.2006. The incentive will be applicable for wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agencies of the State Governments from 20.3.2006 to 30.6.2006.

(c) On reviewing the trend in procurement of wheat by FCI/State Agencies for the Central Pool during the RMS 2006-07, there was apprehension of significant shortfall in the procurement of wheat against the estimated procurement of 162 lakh tonnes due to aggressive procurement of wheat by the private sector. Therefore, to enhance procurement of wheat, an incentive bonus on procurement of wheat by FCI/State Agencies was announced.

Transportation cost on wheat

†2928. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat from producer is procured at rupees 650/- per quintal whereas its transportation to Southern States cost rupees 390/- per quintal;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that transportation cost of wheat is not justified; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether there is any plan to reduce the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Wheat is procured at Rs. 650/- per quintal plus Rs. 50/- as bonus with effect from 20.04.2006. The transportaion cost of wheat, on account of Railway freight, from wheat producing States of Punjab and Haryana to Southern States is Rs.144.00 per quintal, on an average.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.